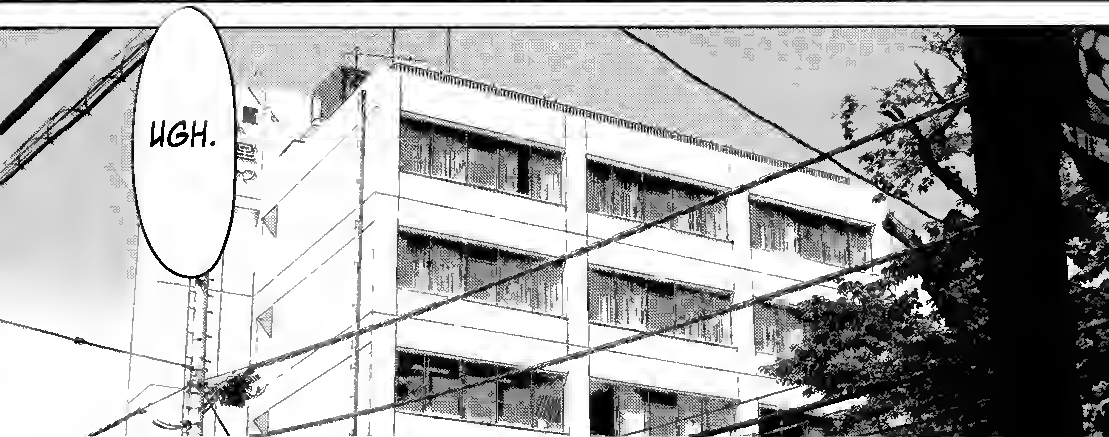
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
PRETTY TERRIBLE.
FEELS LIKE I CUT YEARS OFF MY LIFE-SPAN.
木尾士目
Shimoku K.
Spotted Flower
KINDA LIKE MY INNARDS ARE JUST STRAINING AGAINST MY BONES
WOW, WHAT A WAY TO DESCRIBE IT
I MEAN, I'M STILL BLEEDING! THEY STITCHED ME UP!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE US ALL THE GORY DETAILS.
haha
AT LEAST THE BREAST-FEEDING'S GOING WELL, BUT I HAVE TO FEED HER SO OFTEN.
I CAN'T GET ANY SLEEP.
IT'S EVERY FEW HOURS, RIGHT?
OH, BE RIGHT BACK
BATH-ROOM.
OH.
ME, TOO.
HUH?
HEY.
HUH?

...
WHA... I, UHH...
I WASN'T
DON'T YOU DARE TRY AND RUN AWAY.
Spotted Flower
木尾士目
Shimoku Kio
第21話


UGH.

I KNOW HE'S MY EX,
BUT DON'T YOU GUYS HAVE THAT OTAKU BOND OR SOMETHING?!
REMEMBER, THE ONE YOU TOLD ME I'D NEVER BREAK?
Forged in iron never fraying?
IT SHOWS WHEN THEY GET TOGETHER EVERY COMIFES
OOOH
OH, RIGHT.
HERE'S SOME STUFF FROM MY COMPANY'S BOOTH AT THE COMIFES
THINK OF IT AS A GIFT TO CELEBRATE THE BABY!
What?
OH ..
D-DON'T WORRY, I HAVE OUR GIFT RIGHT HERE!
It's baby clothes
CAN SAKI SEE US?
PROBABLY NOT YET.

WELL? HOW'S IT FEEL BEING A FATHER?
MM?
HONESTLY, IT KINDA HASN'T SUNKEN IN YET...
HE WAS SHAKING LIKE A LEAF WHEN HE WAS STANDING BY ME DURING LABOR
Ooh..
WELL, I DON'T THINK YOU CAN REALLY BLAME HIM FOR THAT...
YOU KNOW THAT HE'S THE KIND TO TAKE THINGS SLOW,
SO I'M SURE HE'LL BECOME A GREAT FATHER DOWN THE ROAD.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY HOLDING HER A LITTLE?
OH, YEAH!
WHA?

WHAT, ARE WE HAVING A PAPARAZZI SESSION NOW?
YOU'RE STIFF AS A BOARD!
We can't even see Saiki's face!
WOW, YOU LOOK SO AWKWARD!
カシャ
カシャ
ha ha ha ha
No it's fine
Sorry, guys
Yeah we should get going
I think that's our cue..
AAAAAAAAA
uhuhuhuh
OH?
HAH...
GUESS IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN
OH, SHE'S CRYING NOW
GAAAAAAAAA
WAAAAAA

THANKS FOR COMING, GUYS.
IT WAS OUR PLEASURE
YEAH.
YOU KNOW,
YOU'VE GOT A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF YOU.
GOOD LUCK!

SO, ABOUT THE COSPLAY OUTFIT.
DON'T RETURN IT JUST YET.
YEAH
...UMM, REALLY?
I MEAN, I MIGHT FIND A USE FOR IT
.....
WHAT?

PROB-LEM?!
N-NO!
NO, MA' AM.
...OH.
IT'S BEEN 10 MIN-UTES
Here, have some from the other side.
There we go.
I MEAN
IT MIGHT BE A WHILE BEFORE WE GET THE CHANCE, BUT YEAH.
GOT-CHA
NO, I WILL FIND A USE FOR IT!
IT'S WAY TOO SAD TO THINK THAT WAS ALL I'LL GET OUT OF IT!

WELL, I'VE GOT WORK TOMORROW, SO I'LL HEAD HOME
..YOU GONNA BE OKAY?
MHMM. I'LL BE FINE.

AAAAH.
MAN, THOUGH.

I CAN REALLY TELL THAT THEY'RE BOTH CODDLING ME.
THEY'RE TAKING CARE TO ACT NATURAL AROUND ME WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING ME LOTS OF SPACE.
THEY'RE MAKING SURE TO SUPPORT ME AS MUCH AS THEY CAN, TOO.
YEAH, I CAN TELL.
BUT... THE THING IS...
WHEN I SEE THOSE TWO TOGETHER...

GOD,
I'M SO PA-THETIC.
MAKES MY HEART CLENCH UP IN MY CHEST...
JUST THE SIGHT OF THEM SITTING SIDE BY SIDE...

I'm so sorry I couldn't be with you on Saturday! Work is keeping me really busy...
Are your wife and the baby doing all right? I might not be there, but I'm still wishing the best for you!
I KNOW YOU NEVER INTENDED ON COMING IN THE FIRST PLACE.
OH.
BUT WAIT...

IS SHE TRYING TO SCOUT OUT MY SITUATION RIGHT NOW?
THE WAY THIS IS WORDED...
HELLO?
THAT MEANS...
SHE'S TRYING TO SEDUCE ME.
HEY, MY WIFE'S NOT HOME.
COME ON OVER.
Fin

Illustration by Shimoku Kio